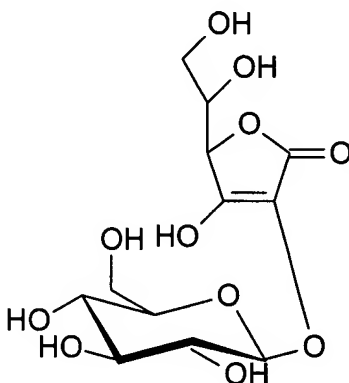


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) 2-O-(β -D-Glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid represented by the following formula (1):



or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

2. (Currently amended) A provitamin C ~~composition~~ extract from a fresh or a dried fruit of a plant of *Lycium chinense* comprising 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid ~~extracted from a plant.~~

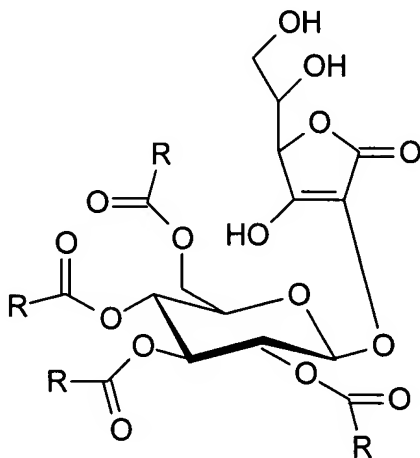
Claims 3-4. Cancelled.

5. (Currently amended) A method of producing A production process for 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid comprising immersing a plant in an aqueous solvent either directly or after pulverizing said plant to obtain an extract containing 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid ~~by extraction from a plant.~~

6. (Currently amended) The method of A production process according to claim 5, wherein the plant is a plant of the family *Solanaceae*.

7. (Currently amended) The method of A production process according to claim 5, wherein the plant is a plant of *Lycium genuse*, or the fresh or dried fruit of a the plant of *Lycium genuse*.

8. (Original) 2-O-(Tetra-O-acyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid represented by the following formula (2):



wherein each R in the formula independently represents a C₁₋₅ alkyl group.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 8, wherein all of the R groups in formula (2) are acetyl groups.

10. (Currently amended) A method of producing A production process for 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid comprising using a 2-O-(tetra-O-acyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid derivative as an intermediate for producing 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid.

11. (Currently amended) A method of producing A production process for 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid comprising reacting by reaction of ascorbic acid and β -D-glucosyl compound using a β -D-glucosyltransferase.

12. (Currently amended) The method of producing A production process according to claim 11, characterized in that the 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid and

~~is produced along with~~ 6-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid comprising reacting ascorbic acid and β -D-glucosyl compound using a β -D-glucosyltransferase.

13. (Currently amended) The method of ~~A production process for 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid according to claim 11, characterized in that~~ wherein the β -D-glucosyltransferase is a cellulase.

14. (Currently amended) A provitamin C composition comprising 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid produced by the ~~production process method~~ of claim 10, and a pharmaceutically, cosmetically, or dietarily acceptable component.

15. (Currently amended) A provitamin C composition comprising the 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid produced by ~~the production process~~ the method of claim 10 and[[,]] together with 6-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid.

16. (Currently amended) A method for taking provitamin C comprising taking an effective amount of food containing 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof of ~~according to~~ claim 1, or a composition comprising the same as a provitamin C.

17. (Currently amended) A method for taking provitamin C comprising taking a provitamin C extract of claim 2, or a plant of a *Lycium genuse* or the fresh or dried fruit of *Lycium genuse* food according to ~~claim 16, which is a vitamin C fortified food.~~

18. (Currently amended) A method for protecting skin from An ultraviolet damage protector containing comprising administering to said skin the 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~or a composition comprising the same as a provitamin C.~~

19. (Currently amended) A method for skin whitening eosome comprising administering to skin the containing 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~or a composition comprising the same as a provitamin C.~~

20. (Currently amended) A method for preventing skin wrinkles or sagging comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of wrinkle/sag-preventing cosmetic containing 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid of according to claim 1, or a composition comprising the same as a provitamin C.

21. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition ~~for preventing skin aging~~ comprising the 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically or cosmetically acceptable carrier.

22. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition ~~for preventing skin aging~~ comprising the provitamin C extract composition of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically or cosmetically acceptable carrier as a provitamin C component.

23. (New) A method for preventing skin aging in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof of claim 1.

24. (New) A method for preventing skin aging in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of the extract of claim 2.

25. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the plant is a plant of *Lycium chinense*, or the fresh or dried fruit of a plant of *Lycium chinense*.